

Mississippi Transitional Refresher Course Patient Assessment/Physical Exam Course Objectives

Minimum course length 16 hours

Course Description

This course explains the pathophysiological significance of physical exam findings.

Course Competencies Stated in Performance Terms:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define the terms inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation.
2. Describe the techniques of inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation.
3. Evaluate the importance of a general survey.
4. Describe the examination of skin, hair and nails.
5. Differentiate normal and abnormal findings of the assessment of the skin.
6. Distinguish the importance of abnormal findings of the assessment of the skin.
7. Describe the examination of the head and neck.
8. Differentiate normal and abnormal findings of the scalp examination.
9. Describe the normal and abnormal assessment findings of the skull.
10. Describe the assessment of visual acuity.
11. Explain the rationale for the use of an ophthalmoscope.
12. Describe the examination of the eyes.
13. Distinguish between normal and abnormal assessment findings of the eyes.
14. Explain the rationale for the use of an otoscope.
15. Describe the examination of the ears.
16. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings of the ears.

17. Describe the examination of the nose.
18. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings of the nose.
19. Describe the examination of the mouth and pharynx.
20. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings of the mouth and pharynx.
21. Describe the examination of the neck.
22. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings the neck.
23. Describe the survey of the thorax and respiration.
24. Describe the examination of the posterior chest.
25. Describe percussion of the chest.
26. Differentiate the percussion notes and their characteristics.
27. Differentiate the characteristics of breath sounds.
28. Describe the examination of the anterior chest.
29. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings of the chest examination.
30. Describe special examination techniques related to the assessment of the chest.
31. Describe the examination of the arterial pulse including rate, rhythm, and amplitude.
32. Distinguish normal and abnormal findings of arterial pulse.
33. Describe the assessment of jugular venous pressure and pulsations.
34. Distinguish normal and abnormal examination findings of jugular venous pressure and pulsations.
35. Describe the examination of the heart and blood vessels.
36. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings of the heart and blood vessels.
37. Describe the auscultation of the heart.
38. Differentiate the characteristics of normal and abnormal findings associated with the auscultation of the heart.

39. Describe special examination techniques of the cardiovascular examination.
40. Describe the examination of the abdomen.
41. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings of the abdomen.
42. Describe auscultation of the abdomen.
43. Distinguish normal and abnormal findings of the auscultation of the abdomen.
44. Describe the examination of the female genitalia.
45. Differentiate normal and abnormal assessment findings of the female genitalia.
46. Describe the examination of the male genitalia.
47. Differentiate normal and abnormal findings of the male genitalia.
48. Describe the examination of the anus and rectum.
49. Distinguish between normal and abnormal findings of the anus and rectum.
50. Describe the examination of the peripheral vascular system.
51. Differentiate normal and abnormal findings of the peripheral vascular system.
52. Describe the examination of the musculoskeletal system.
53. Differentiate normal and abnormal findings of the musculoskeletal system.
54. Describe the examination of the nervous system.
55. Differentiate normal and abnormal findings of the nervous system.
56. Describe the assessment of the cranial nerves.
57. Differentiate normal and abnormal findings of the cranial nerves.
58. Describe the general guidelines of recording examination information.
59. Demonstrate a caring attitude when performing physical examination skills.
60. Discuss the limitations of conducting a physical exam in the out-of-hospital environment.